

I do not support this petition or any other one that proposes to eliminate the present 5wpm morse testing requirement.

I find it difficult to understand when the petition states that the immediate removal of the telegraphy requirement from Amateur Radio licensing is appropriate and clearly in the public interest. The public's interest in our Amateur Radio Service should be in our ability to provide emergency communications when called upon to do so. This ability should include any and all means of communication at our disposal, including the ability to send and receive morse code if the situation demands.

Amateur radio may be just a hobby to many, but it is first and foremost a service to the public keeping the requirement in place assures that those aspiring to upgrade to the higher licensing classes will at least have some exposure to the mode and knowledge of it's use should they need to use it in an emergency situation.

There are plenty of privileges available to those who just want to "play radio" but let's assure that our General and higher class licensees that may be called upon to get involved in emergency communications have all the tools and knowledge available to them, including the ability to send and receive morse code.

Thank you very much,
Mike Lyness, AF4LQ